Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 23-26, 32-35, and 37-39 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject mater presented therein. Please amend claims 13, 18, and 27-29, and add new claims 40-44, as follows:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing method implemented in a printing system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data);

changing the RIP Data in accordance with an ~~operators~~ operator's adjustments, such that the changing of the RIP Data occurs while the printing system is printing a print job, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job; ~~and~~

subjecting the changed RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered ~~gray level~~ data; and

outputting the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 and including subjecting the changed RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according claim 13 and including the step of modifying the blended output into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 13 wherein changed RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method of altering the appearance of an input digital image when printed, the method comprising the steps of:

rasterizing the input digital image into rasterized image data (RID);

separating the RID into separated rasterized contone gray level image data;

altering the separated rasterized contone gray level image data in accordance with an ~~operators~~ operator's adjustments, such that the altering occurs while a print job is being printed, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job; ~~and~~

subjecting the altered rasterized image data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered ~~gray level~~ data; and

outputting the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18 and including subjecting the altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data to first and second halftone processes and then blending the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according claim 19 and including the step of modifying the output of the blending operation into a binary image file and subjecting the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 18 wherein altered separated rasterized contone gray level image data is recorded on a recording surface as a color separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

22. – 26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a digital image comprising:

a printer configured at least to print a print job;

a raster image processor (RIP) configured at least to provide rasterized color separated contone gray level image data (RIP Data); and

an image processor ~~for~~ configured at least to:

~~altering~~ alter the RIP Data in accordance with an ~~operators~~ operator's adjustments, such that the altering occurs while the printer is printing the print job, thereby resulting in a corresponding contemporaneous change in an appearance of the print job; ~~and~~

~~subjecting~~ subject the altered RIP Data to a halftone process to generate halftone rendered ~~gray level~~ data; and

output the halftone rendered data, or a derivative thereof, for subsequent printing.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the image processor ~~subjects the altered~~ is configured to alter the RIP Data to first and second halftone processes and then blend~~s~~ the respective outputs from the first and second halftone processes to provide a blended output.

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according claim 27 wherein the image processor ~~modifies~~ is configured to modify the blended output into a binary image file and subjects the binary image file to an edge enhancement process to reduce jaggedness in the image.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the altered RIP Data is recorded on a recording surface as a color

separation image, and plural color separation images are recorded and eventually transferred to a receiver sheet in superposed registered relationship to form a process color image.

31. – 39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the changing step changes a color saturation represented by the RIP Data.

41. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the altering step changes a color saturation represented by the separated rasterized contone gray level image data.

42. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the RID is rasterized CMYK image data.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the image processor is configured to alter a color saturation represented by the RIP Data in accordance with the operator's adjustments.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the RIP Data is rasterized CMYK image data.